

Michigan Department of Education  
Mental Health in Schools Community Partnership Project

**PROJECT SUMMARY**

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is submitting this proposal for consideration for a grant to Integrate Schools and Mental Health Systems and has partnered with Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH), Michigan Department of Human Services (MDHS) and the School Community Health Alliance of Michigan (SCHA-MI) to develop and carryout the responsibilities of this project. The intent of this grant will allow MDE the chance to focus and strategically develop both a partnership structure through system changes at the state and local-level resulting in additional capacity and access to a formalized network of community providers with a well defined referral and follow-up procedure.

This project has been designed to accomplish the following: 1) development of model policy on student mental health service integration; 2) increased linkages that build capacity around mental health services for students through the work of three pilot sites within local school systems; 3) increased awareness of mental health needs and referrals through the delivery of technical assistance, professional development, and trainings for teachers, school personnel, parents/caregivers, youth, and mental health workers through school-based health centers; and 4) development of state and national linkages around mental health services and policy development. Each pilot site will also be working to enhance both the capacity and referral process for improved access to crisis intervention services. Parents/caregivers will be actively engaged in meaningful work, as the project is implemented at both the state and local levels.

Through a continuous learning and evaluation process, this project will assist schools in addressing non-academic problems that interfere with successful learning and Michigan's students will reap the benefits of both.